

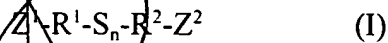
follows:

13. (New) Rubber composition vulcanizable with sulfur, characterized in that it comprises

a) at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of diene polymers, olefin/monomeric diene copolymers and halogenated isoolefin/para-alkylstyrene copolymers;

b) silica as filler;

c) at least one agent promoting linking between the silica and the polymer, said agent having the formula

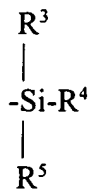


wherein

n is an integer between 2 and 8,

R¹ and R², which may be the same or different, are each selected from among substituted or unsubstituted alkylene groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms and of substituted or unsubstituted arylene groups having 6 to 12 carbon atoms,

Z¹ and Z², which may be the same or different, each represents a group



wherein R³, R⁴ and R⁵, which may be the same or different, are each selected from among alkyl groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, phenyl groups, alkoxy groups having 1

to 8 carbon atoms, and cycloalkoxy groups having 5 to 8 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least one of R^3 , R^4 and R^5 is an alkoxy or cycloalkoxy; and

d) at least one guanidine substituted by at least two groups, which may be the same or different, and each selected from among alkyl, aryl or aralkyl groups;

wherein the composition satisfies at least one of the following features (i) and/or

(ii):

- (i) the composition comprises at least one diene polymer which has at least one amino terminal group of an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine which is bonded thereto at the end of the chain, the polymer then being devoid of alkoxy silane and silanol group; and
- (ii) the composition comprises at least one free aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine.

14.(New) Composition according to Claim 13, wherein the filler is silica.

15. (New) Composition according to Claim 14 wherein the filler comprises at least 40% by weight of silica.

16. (New) Composition according to Claim 13 wherein in the linking agent of formula (I), n is greater than 2, or if there are several such agents, at least 80% of n is greater than 2 for the total of these agents.

B1
A1
Cont.
 $H_2N-C-NH_2$

006740-2829460

2
Sub B2

4
5
6
Sub C5
A1
Cont.

At
cont
2
SUBCS
cont
17. (New) Composition according to Claim 13 wherein the agent of formula (I) or mixture of such agents comprises at least 4% by weight calculated on the weight of silica or mixture comprising silica used as filler.

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18. (New) Composition according to Claim 13 wherein the guanidine or mixture of guanidines comprises 0.5 to 4% by weight calculated on the weight of silica or mixture of silicas as filler.

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1 *AT Sub B3*
cont. subcs 23. (New) Composition according to Claim 22, wherein the polymer is prepared
in solution and that the aliphatic or cycloaliphatic amine is introduced into this solution
after stopping the polymerization and before stripping of the solvent.

4 *Subcs*
cont. 24. (New) Tire tread comprising at least one composition according to Claim 13.

1 *AT* 25. (New) Tread obtained by vulcanization of the tread according to Claim 24.

26. (New) Tire casing comprising at least one composition according to Claim 13.

27. (New) Tire casing obtained by vulcanizing the tire casing according to Claim

26.

Respectfully submitted,

Rochelle K. Seide
Rochelle K. Seide
Patent Office Reg. No. 32,300

Attorneys for Applicants

(212) 408-2626

Enclosures

- (1) Substitute Specification (42 pages)
- (2) Abstract